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Patricia L. Mesuch  
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Date of Signature 7/10/01

JUL 17 2001  
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of:  
Dean, Jr. et al.

Serial No.: 09/460,552

Filed: December 14, 1999

Title: A FERRULE HAVING FIRST AND  
SECOND BODY PORTIONS WITH  
DIFFERENT NOMINAL WIDTHS AND  
AN ASSOCIATED MOLD AND  
FABRICATION METHOD

Art Unit: 2874

Examiner: N/A

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after filing of the application, but, to the undersigned's knowledge, prior to the mailing of the first Office Action.

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

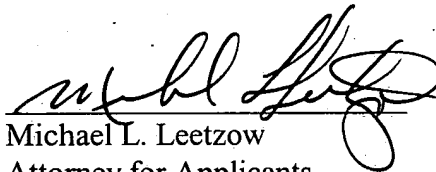
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute

"prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 7/10/01